(v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

(vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

As a result of these and other steps taken in the wake of National Textile Policy 2000, the production of textile items have increasing from 39208 mn. Sq. mtrs. in 1999-2000 to 42034 mn. Sq. mtrs. in 2001-2002 as per the figures available. Export of textiles including has increased from Rs.45536.20 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 50960.31 crore in 2001-2002. Per capita availability of cloth has increased from 30.55 Sq. mtrs. in 1999-2000 to 31.97 Sq. mtrs. in 2001-2002.

Exports of Textiles Products from Rajasthan

1174. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industries of Rajasthan are passing though period of recession;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether textiles products from Rajasthan are being exported;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the export earnings during last three years;

(f) whether the ban imposed by WTO on the exports of Indian textiles still operative;

(g) by when, the ban would expire; and

(g) by when, the ban would expire; and

(h) the steps contemplated by Government to help the textiles industries of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATH): (a) to (e) Despite various problems being faced by the textile industry in the country in general, including the State of Rajasthan the production of textile items, textile exports and per capital availability of cloth have shown increase during the past few years as may be seen in the following table:-

Production of textile items:	
1999-2000	39208 mn. Sq. mtrs.
2001-2002 (Provisional)	42034 mn. Sq. mtrs.
Textile Exports (including Handicrafts):	
1999-2000	Rs. 45536.20 crore
2002-2003 (upto February)	Rs. 51796.48 crore
Per Capita Availability of Cloth :	
1999-2000	30.55 Sq. mtrs.
2001-2002	31.97 Sq. mtrs.

State-wise figures of production and exports of textile items are not maintained. As regards exports, figures as reported by the State Government of Rajasthan are the following:-

1999-2000	Rs. 954.74 crore
2000-2001	Rs. 1145.00 crore
2001-2002	Rs. 1162.22 crore

(f) There is no ban imposed by WTO on exports of Indian Textiles. However, as per the quota system in force under the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA), the export of certain textiles items is subject to quantitative restrictions in USA, European Union and Canada.

(g) The Quota restriction will expire by 31.12.2004.

(h) Some of the major steps for growth and development of textile industries for the country as a whole including Rajasthan are as under:-

(i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.

(ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming nter-alia at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of machinery critical to technology upgradation;

(iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrstructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;

(iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton schemes;

(v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

(vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

In addition, the State Government of Rajasthan has taken the following steps:-

(i) Purchase tax exemption on raw material to 100% EOU, which have an investment of more than Rs. 25 crore;

(ii) Entry tax exemption to 100% EOU;

(iii) Public utility status to the units which have exports 50% or more of their production; and

(iv) Exemption from power cut to export oriented units.

Deduction of festival advance from Employees by NTC Mills

1175. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the mills affiliated with the National Textile Corporation Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Ltd. are deducting the amount given during the Diwali festival at the time of retirement even though the agreement reached with the Labour Unions does not allowed such deduction; and

(b) if so, the remedy contemplated by the Ministry to solve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Payments made as advance at the time of Diwali are paid back by the employees at the time of their cessation from employment with the company. There is no agreement that such deductions are not to be made.

(b) The Government has found that recovery of advances are in accordance with the provisions of Law.